GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2897
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
THREAT OF VIRUS TO CASH CROPS
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the threat of virus posed to some major cash crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the crops; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the menace of virus and to save these cash crops?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Following are the main virus diseases of major cash crops:

(i) Leaf Curl Virus in cotton.
(ii) Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV) and Tobacco Leaf Curl Virus (TLCV) in tobacco.
(iii) Sugarcane Mosaic Virus in sugarcane.
(iv) Jute Mosaic in jute.

(c): The steps taken by the Union Government to check the menace of virus diseases in order to save these cash crops include:

- Development of virus resistant varieties;
- Management and control of vector and alternate host to curtail the spread of the viruses;
- Creating awareness among the farmers through the conduct of Farmers` Field Schools(FFSs) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) measures.